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New Government Relations Committee Organized

Karen Alderson

Chair, Government Relations Committee

Monitoring government policies as they affect special librarians in our Division is the function of the newly formed Government Relations Committee. Formed at the Denver Conference this committee was formed as part of SLA's desire to establish a strong, workable legislative network at both the Chapter and Division levels. The Government Relations Committee acts as a Division contact to alert members of the Division about important government actions. It also serves to monitor legislation, regulations and any other actions of government that could impact those in our Division. The committee for 1988-1989 consists of four people: Chair, Karen Alderson, Congressional Research Service; Linda Rober, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; Robert Thornhill, Chicago Public Library; and Carol Alexander, Project Manager, Department of Labor Library.

Recognizing that all of us have a stake in the information policy of our government, it is the desire of this committee to support SLA's endeavor to be informed of the information issues of the day and to have a voice in determining their outcome. To this end we are putting into place a network whereby the issues of greatest interest to our Division are monitored, and those who have special expertise in a particular legislative area are identified. The committee is further charged with preparing for Board consideration at the New York Conference a description of its functions, duties, and qualifications of the Chair. The final version will become part of the Science and Technology Division Procedures Manual. This year the Chair also is serving as the NTIS liaison person, explained below.

NTIS Liaison

NTIS, through its Liaison Programs Office, has implemented a Library Liaison Network designed to improve communications between user groups and NTIS, and to renew ties with professional groups. This is done through group

appointed contact people who receive current information about NTIS activities and other items of possible interest through an irregular newsletter. This program also urges user and library group feedback, which NTIS states "helps us to improve ongoing services, make needed changes in policies and procedures, where feasible, and plan for future products and information services." Therefore, I urge anyone in our Division who has complaints or suggestions for NTIS to direct them to me in writing to forward to NTIS.

NTIS Privatization

The passage of the Omnibus Trade Bill in August leaves the question of the fate of NTIS in limbo. The law prohibits NTIS from giving out any further contracts except for those of \$250,000 or less. The bill further states that the Secretary of Commerce is to report back to Congress on ways to improve NTIS by January 31, 1989. These actions effectively stall for the present time any privatization or contracting out efforts by NTIS, since \$250,000 is too small an amount which any organization could consider operating a huge operation like NTIS.

The Trade Bill also assigns a new name to the National Bureau of Standards. It is now called the National Institute of Standards and Technology with the same functions as NBS but with provisions for further growth and development.

A reauthorization bill for the NBS will likely substitute for another House bill which would have made NTIS a government corporation. Under this bill, NTIS would have been placed under a new Technology Administration within the Commerce Department along with the National Bureau of Standards (newly renamed) and an Office of Technology Policy. NTIS would not become a government corporation under this arrangement but its director would be appointed by the President. The bill to make NTIS a government corporation was dropped due to a

difference in opinions in the House Committee. The Senate version of the NBS reauthorization (S.2701) still restructures NTIS as a government corporation. At this point the Senate and House versions will have to be reconciled, but how is unknown.

Electronic Dissemination of Federal Information

The Joint Committee on Printing in cooperation with the Government Printing Office has produced a plan to test the use of electronic technologies to deliver government information to depository libraries. The plan involves five projects, three of which will distribute CD-ROM versions of census data, the final version of *Congressional Record*, and the Environment Protection Agency compilation of toxic substances which are released into the environment. Two other projects will provide a limited number of libraries access to existing online databases in lieu of receiving paper copies of the information. These include the Commerce Department *Economic Bulletin Board* and the Energy Department collection of science and technology reports.

Video and Library Privacy Protection Act

Legislation has been introduced in both Houses which would protect personal privacy of library users and video tape renters or purchasers by prohibiting disclosures of rental records or library patron records except with the person's consent or under court order. With less than a month remaining before Congress recesses it is unlikely that the legislation will progress.

NASA Reference Services Available

If NTIS cannot supply a specific older report produced by NASA or one of its predecessors, write to NASA Scientific and Technical Information Facility, Reference, P. O. Box 8757, BWI Airport, Maryland 21240 or call the Reference Desk at (301) 859-5300 ext. 146 or 147.

Support SLA's Government Relations effort by helping us to identify issues that are of interest to you and which you want monitored. Contact: Karen Alderson, Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, LM221, Washington, D.C. 20540 or phone 202-287-8707.

**Karen Alderson,
Chair
Government Relations Committee**

SLA Honorary Member

The definition is from the SLA Bylaws: Article II: Membership. Section 7. An Honorary Member shall be an individual elected to this honor by the Association members. At the time of his election, a candidate shall not belong to the Special Libraries Association. Nominations shall be presented in writing to the Board of Directors and may be proposed by one or more Association members. Upon endorsement by a two-thirds vote of the Board, the nomination shall be submitted by the Board to the members for election at an Annual Business Meeting. The total number of Honorary Members shall not exceed 15 at any one time and not more than two may be elected in one year. An Honorary Member shall have the right to affiliate with one chapter and one division, and to receive the official journal free.

SLA President's Award

The definition of the SLA President's Award is as follows: The President's Award is given to an SLA member for a notable or important contribution during the past Association year. The contribution must have enhanced the Association or furthered its goals and objectives.

Fellow of the Special Libraries Association

The designation of Fellow of the Special Libraries Association is given to individuals in recognition of their leadership in the field of special librarianship and for their outstanding contributions to the Association. Fellows are called upon to advise the Association's Board of Directors, to prepare discussion materials and to alert the membership to issues and trends warranting action. No more than five members will be selected as Fellows each year.

While nominations can be made directly to the Board of Directors, it is preferred that they be submitted to the Awards Committee which will consolidate them with all award nominations for presentation to the Board.

Mail nominations to: Frank H. Spaulding, 910 River Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

**SLA Awards Committee
Carolyn Hardnett
Emily R. Mobley
M. Kay Mowery
Muriel B. Regan
Frank H. Spaulding, Chair**